

COVID Compendium of Reporting

Reportable COVID-19 data

COVID-19 is an urgently reportable condition in SC, meaning cases, deaths, and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) should be reported to DHEC within 24 hours. Additionally, unlike most other reportable conditions, all COVID-19 test results (positive, negative and indeterminate) must be reported to DHEC by all entities performing testing, including point-of-care or at-home specimen collections processed by laboratories. This requirement applies to all testing for COVID-19 including, but not limited to:

- Molecular Testing: Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), RT-PCR test, LAMP test
- Antigen Testing: Rapid, point-of-care diagnostic test, Saliva-based antigen test
- Antibody testing: Serology test, blood test
- Combination tests: Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay

Molecular or antigen tests are commonly used to test a person experiencing symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection and individuals who have been exposed to someone with the virus. Antibody tests may be used to determine if a person was previously infected with or exposed to COVID-19.

Below are some examples of terminology related to COVID-19 laboratory testing. Each laboratory uses its own terminology; therefore, this list is not exhaustive.

Molecular Testing

- SARS CoV-2 by PCR
- 2019 Novel Coronavirus RNA panel
- COVID-19 RNA
- SARS Coronavirus 2 ORF1Ab by NAA
- SARS CoV-2 N gene in Respiratory Specimen by NAA with probe detection

Antigen Testing

- SARS CoV+SARS CoV-2Ag Resp QI IA.rapid
- SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) Ag [Presence]in Respiratory Specimen by Rapid Immunoassay

Antibody Testing

- SARS CoV-2 IgG
- SARS CoV-2 IgG+IgM

Statutes Applicable to Reporting

CARES Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and its [June 4 laboratory reporting guidance](#) require every COVID-19 testing site to report every diagnostic and screening test performed to detect SARS-CoV-2 or to diagnose a possible case of COVID-19 (e.g., molecular, antigen, antibody) to the appropriate state or local public health department, based on the individual's residence. The CARES Act acknowledged that the data elements requested go above and beyond what has been historically

requested, but that this information should be made available in all reporting to state and local public health departments and subsequently the CDC as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2020.

S.C Laws and Regulations

Reporting of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is consistent with South Carolina Law §44-29-10 and Regulation §61-20 requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department, as per the DHEC List of Reportable Conditions available at: <https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-009025.pdf>.

South Carolina Law §44-29-15 requires reporting of all COVID-19 test results (positive, negative, and indeterminate) to DHEC. This includes, but is not limited to, all laboratories, within or outside the state, which collect specimens in South Carolina, or which receive the initial order for testing from a practitioner, blood bank, plasmapheresis center, or other health care provider located in South Carolina. This requirement also applies to testing at point-of-care sites or with at-home specimen collection kits.

COVID-19 testing sites are defined as:

- Laboratories that perform clinical diagnostic or screening testing under CLIA,
- Non-laboratory COVID-19 diagnostic or screening testing locations, and
- Other facilities or locations offering COVID-19 point-of-care diagnostic or screening tests, or in-home diagnostic or screening tests (i.e. schools, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, etc.)

How to report

Typically, urgently reportable conditions, like cases of COVID-19, are to be reported by phone within 24 hours. However, other options are available for COVID-19 reporting, particularly for providers and facilities that have or can develop the capability to report to DHEC using an approved electronic reporting option.

Available reporting options are described below.

- **Phone Reporting:**
 - To report by phone, call COVID-19 cases and lab results to the regional public health office servicing the county in which the patient resides. Contact information for the regional public health offices can be found on DHEC's [List of Reportable Conditions](#).
- **Faxing:**
 - To fax reports, send COVID-19 results to the regional public health office servicing the county in which the patient resides. Contact information for the regional public health offices can be found on DHEC's [List of Reportable Conditions](#)
- **Approved electronic reporting options include:**
 - **Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR)** - Facilities that currently have the capability to send HL7 messages to DHEC via ELR, should continue using this mechanism to submit all COVID-19 lab reports (positive, negative, and indeterminate results) to DHEC. Facilities interested in utilizing ELR should contact MUHELPDESK@dhec.sc.gov to inquire about ELR submissions.

- **SCIONx** – SCIONx is DHEC’s secure, web-based reporting portal. Facilities and providers that currently have the capability to enter results into SCIONx, can continue utilizing this portal to submit all COVID-19 results (positive, negative, and indeterminate results) to DHEC. Facilities or providers interested in utilizing SCIONx for COVID-19 reporting, should contact SCIONHELP@dhec.sc.gov for more information.
- **Other Options** – Facilities and providers that currently do not have the capability to submit ELRs to DHEC, cannot utilize SCIONx, or have a large volume of COVID-19 results to report, should contact SCIONHELP@dhec.sc.gov to inquire about other electronic reporting options.

Additional information regarding disease reporting can be found on DHEC’s [List of Reportable Conditions](#).

Data to report for COVID-19 cases, deaths, associated MIS-C, and lab results

DHEC requires certain data elements be reported with each case. These data allow DHEC to quickly start COVID-19 case investigations and initiate public health interventions as necessary.

- Patient Information
 - Name (First, Middle, Last)
 - Complete address
 - Phone number
 - County of residence
 - Date of birth
 - Race
 - Sex
- Physician’s name and phone number
- Name, institution, and phone number of person reporting
- Disease or condition
- Date of diagnosis
- Patient’s symptoms
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Lab results, specimen source collection date
- If female, pregnancy status
- Patient status: In childcare, food-handler, health care worker, childcare worker, nursing home, prisoner/detainee, travel in last 4 weeks

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: COVID-19 is an urgently reportable (call within 24 hours) condition. Are commercial labs (who may be processing thousands of specimens per day) required to call all results to DHEC?

A1: No. Commercial labs processing large numbers of COVID-19 specimens do not have to call all results to DHEC if they utilize ELR or another electronic reporting mechanism to submit all COVID-19 results (positive, negative, and indeterminate) to DHEC. Commercial labs not utilizing ELR should email MUHELPDESK@dhec.sc.gov for more information about ELR submissions or SCIONHelp@dhec.sc.gov for more information about other electronic reporting options.

Q2: Are providers and healthcare facilities that are performing large numbers of COVID-19 point-of-care testing required to call all COVID-19 results to DHEC?

A2: In-house laboratories and providers/healthcare facilities performing point-of-care tests are required to report all COVID-19 test results to DHEC within 24 hours. Positive COVID-19 results should be called to the regional public health office where the patient resides or the facility is located unless the provider or facility has the capability to submit all test results to DHEC using an approved electronic reporting option (ELR, SCIONx or other electronic reporting options). Contact information for the regional public health offices can be found on DHEC's [List of Reportable Conditions](#). For inquiries about electronic reporting, please contact MUHELPDESK@dhec.sc.gov to inquire about ELR submission, or call 1-800-917-2093 or email SCIONHelp@dhec.sc.gov for more information about SCIONx and other electronic reporting options.

Q3: I understand why positive antigen or molecular tests should be called in to DHEC since they may indicate an active infection. Does this time requirement also apply to positive antibody test results that may indicate a recent or past infection?

A3: DHEC advises that providers and labs follow the same process to report antibody test results as they're following for reporting antigen or molecular test results.

Q4: My lab doesn't have the ability to send Electronic Lab Reports (ELRs) yet but we cannot keep up with the amount of calling or faxing we need to do. How can I speed up my reporting process?

A4: Please call 1-800-917-2093 or email SCIONHelp@dhec.sc.gov to find out if other reporting options are available.